

November he went to Granada to procure a stock of medicines, with the intention of returning in three days. At that time there were but one hundred and fifty Americans in the place, who were quartered in the church, the hospital and the guard-house. There being a prospect of a battle, Walker caused the sick and wounded to be removed to Omalpa Island in Lake Nicaragua. Dr. Knight accompanied them, and he arrived there he was taken with the fever and died. Mrs. Knight went out to join her husband in August, with him at the time of the death. As our informant has received no further intelligence of her since the death of her husband, he fears that she also has been seized with the fever and died. Young Mr. Knight was killed in the battle of Masaya.

THE FILLIBUSTERS AT PUNTA ARENAS.

The Balver, which, at the latest accounts was being fitted up at Punta Arenas to convey the filibusters to the San Juan River, is an old steamer laid up by the agents of Morgan & Co. on account. On this account, no effort was made to seize her. Her machinery had been taken out and her wheels unshipped. But on learning of the achievement of Spencer, Mr. Scott, the agent of Morgan & Co., commenced to refit her. Engines were being placed in her, and it was expected that she would be ready to move up the river in a few days.

CRITICAL POSITION OF WALKER.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

SAN JUAN DEL NORTE, Jan. 12, 1857.

The affairs of Central America at the present time are involved in such complications that it is a matter of great difficulty, without diligent inquiry, for one here to give an intelligent opinion as to what is to be the political future of Nicaragua. From the headquarters of Walker we have conflicting accounts, some asserting that he has no over a thousand men well conditioned and supplied with provisions, arms and ammunition, and all the defensive points of the river, and the lake, by a coup de main of Mr. Spencer and the Costa Ricans, acting, it is believed, under the auspices of Commodore Vanderbilt, has destroyed the prospects for filibuster enterprise; and if it be true that Walker entertained hopes of regaining the prestige of his past power in Nicaragua, I am inclined to believe that they were based on the confident expectation of additional recruits and aid from the United States, and a forced recourse to possession of the Tlanet route from this point to San Juan del Sur. But when he shall learn (as he will soon) that recruits are now at Punta Arenas without the means of transport, that the San Juan River is in possession of the Costa Ricans, that all its prominent points, offensive and defensive, are held by them, and that the six or seven steamers upon which he formerly relied are in possession of the enemy, and are on a war footing, and moving up and down the river to intercept any forces and supplies designed for his assistance, when Walker shall have learned these facts, I say, I think his organ of hope must have a morbid development, if he still fails to perceive that his situation is desperate.

Of the exertions now being made in the United States to charge the current of filibuster fortune, we here are not aware; but this is certain, that unless recruits come in sufficient numbers to drive the Costa Ricans from San Juan, and capture the steamers, the Costa Ricans will follow up their successes by securing possession of the whole transit route to San Juan del Sur. But it is believed here that, under any circumstances, the Costa Ricans would burn the steamers the moment they found that they were likely to lose them, and without these, the recruits would be unable to render any assistance. The arrival of some fifty or fifty of Walker's men a few days since, a few of whom are from Rivas, has afforded me some facilities for obtaining information—though in all cases any representations of Walker's weakness are reluctantly made. In public conversation they talk loudly of his strength and his prospects of success, and it is only when they are separated from one another and engaged in a confidential conversation with one person under assurances that the authenticity of the statements will never be made known, that they will give any information disparaging the situation and prospects of Walker and his men. Two days since I had an interview with one of Walker's men who had come from Rivas on the 20th of December. He was emancipated by disease and hardship, and was lying on his back in a bamboo hut, with but few garments on him. After a brief conversation, the aim of which was to elicit an impartial statement of the facts of Walker's real situation in which he manifested a great reluctance to communicate any information except general assertions of Walker's line prospects, he said: "By—stranger, I don't know what you're pumping me for in this way. I'm a little suspicious of you; and I don't care to matter, and if it's just the same to you, I'd rather you'd drop it." I assured him that I was not an agent of Walker's, nor of any persons interested in ambitious schemes in Nicaragua, and was only making inquiries to learn the true state of facts. "Look here, stranger," said he, "are you honest?" "Certainly," I replied. "Well," said he, "I could tell you things that would make you stare, but I'll be—d if I'll say a word against Billy Walker." I gave him assurances that I only wanted a statement of the real situation of Walker and his men, and that I would not disclose to anybody the person from whom I obtained my information. Having established myself in his confidence, I learned the following facts: He left Rivas on the 20th of December. Walker was quartered there with the main body of his men, numbering about one thousand, four hundred of whom were sick or wounded—leaving only six hundred men able to fight. Hennington was with him, with the men who had fought under him at the siege of Granada. At Masaya there were about 3,000 of the allied forces of Central America, and Walker was unable to leave Rivas without taking the main body of his men with him. He and his men were badly off for provisions and clothing. Their means of subsistence were very precarious, and as for clothing they were ragged, and some half naked and without the means of refitting themselves, except from New-York, New-Orleans and California, which were their whole reliance for relief. They had plenty of arms and sufficient ammunition for present purposes, and had made arrangements for casting balls. They had nine pieces of cannon, but the place was not fortified. The men were dispirited, and were fighting with the desperate hope of being able to return to the United States. Reports coming from the natives of dissensions existing among the forces of the enemy beyond their hopes. Only 21 recruits came from California by the last steamer, seven left Rivas with my informant, ten escaped from Sarapiquí and 23 from Fort San Carlos. Over 30 were killed and drowned in attempting to escape from Sarapiquí. The poor fellow who gave me this statement had been several months in Nicaragua, during which time he had never received any pay whatever, and the only evidence he had of any indebtedness to him for services rendered in Walker's army was a certificate written on a small piece of foolscap, of which the following is a copy:

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE.
Rivas, Dec. 30, 1856.
This is to certify that _____ has not drawn his full warrant from this office.
D. R. MARTIN, Asst. Paymaster.

The steamer Texas, which arrived here a few days since, brought two hundred recruits from New-Orleans, and the James Adger from New-York brought thirty-one. They are now at Punta Arenas, under the command of Col. Lockridge, and are endeavoring to fit up the Balver, an old propeller, with the intention of ascending the river to attempt the recapture of the points on the river and the steamers. It is understood that they look upon the matter as hopeless, and the fact that eighteen of their number have deserted, and are now in Georgetown under the protection of the British, does not seem to confirm the report. A few weeks will determine the result of Walker's enterprise.

R. F. A.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

COL. WALKER'S REPORT OF OPERATIONS DURING THE NIGHT OF THE 11TH DECEMBER, 1856, IN THE VICINITY OF GRANADA.

Rivas, Dec. 17, 1856.

GENERAL: In the following report I propose bringing to your notice, as briefly as possible, a simple history of our movements after leaving the steamer Virgin.

Capt. Lockridge, with Capt. Farrell's company, five companies (thirty-eight men in all), left the steamer about 5 o'clock in the first boat and landed, as you Excellency is aware, about three miles from Granada, under the fire of the enemy's picket line.

I am happy to say, however, that we suffered no damage, and did not without further interruption. In one hour we were all on our feet, and the line of march for Granada commenced in the following order:

Capt. Leslie, with Company B, Rangers, and Capt. Hays, with a part of Company A, from the same corps, and the volunteers, were placed in the advance. Capt. Leslie's acquaintance with the roads and country over which we were to pass influenced me in assigning him this position.

Capt. Farrell, with his company, was ordered to support Capt. Leslie. Capt. Hays, with his company, was ordered to support Capt. Farrell. Capt. Hays, with his company, was ordered to support Capt. Farrell.

While the troops were reforming, Lieut. Col. McDonald, who had been ordered to bring up the rear of the column, was ordered to bring up the rear of the column.

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in operations which I was anxious but unable to

These obstacles consisted, in the first place, in the confusion and demoralization which arose through the discovery of arms and ammunition in certain places, and in the loss of the steamer, which was a great loss to the cause.

There is a third cause which may or may not have influenced the loss of time and men, though on the whole I am inclined to think it did not, but which I mean to report in detail as a military incident. I mean the fact that on the third day we were surprised, attacked, and surrounded by the assembled forces of Guatemala, Salvador, and the Nicaraguan rebels.

This force was variously estimated at from 2,000 to 2,500 men. The latter is the enemy's estimate, and I presume it to be substantially correct, including the reinforcements we were constantly receiving, though I doubt whether he had ever at one time more than from 1,500 to 2,000 men. I think that about the strength of the combined force of the attack and on the day of the evacuation.

Our loss amounted to officers and men killed and wounded, about 120 officers, soldiers, citizens, women and children swept off by the pestilence, but of these I have no reliable information. The loss of the enemy is estimated at 800 killed and wounded. I should say, however, that 200 killed and wounded, and about 1,000 wounded for one dead, which is at least forty per cent.

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of our sick and wounded died. Our marching force, consisting of four pieces and twelve squadrons, was engaged in the battle, and in the morning of the 11th, the enemy broke out in the church; we had 30 cases of cholera, of whom 30 died. I continued marching at Fort Henry, and the enemy followed us.

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